



# National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 10 February 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- Reuters reports Massachusetts has rejected PG&E Corp.'s request to delay the clean-up of its Salem Harbor station, in a move that may lead to the early shutdown of the power plant, located 15 miles from Boston. (See item [3](#))
- The Washington Post reports that according to a 50-state survey released Thursday by the Association of Public Health Laboratories, only eight labs have chemical response plans and most of the nation's public health laboratories are not at all prepared to handle chemical weapons agents such as sarin or mustard gas that could be used in a terrorist attack. (See item [21](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) has issued Information Bulletin 03-002: Homeland security information update: Suggested guidance on protective measures, due to the Homeland Security Advisory System being raised to High. (See item [28](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) has issued Information Bulletin 03-001: Homeland security information update: Potential al-Qa'ida operational planning. (See item [29](#))
- CNET News reports a former college student was indicted on Thursday for allegedly installing keystroke-recording software on more than 100 campus computers and accessing databases containing personal information on other students, staff and faculty. (See item [34](#))
- Note from the Editor: As of 3 February, the NIPC Daily Open Source Report is being distributed through a new list service. While significant effort has been done to ensure smooth transition, problems are bound to occur. Please notify [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) with any comments, concerns, questions, or problems.
- Note from the Editor: Both the PDF and Word versions of the daily are posted to the NIPC Web Site at <http://www.nipc.gov/dailyreports/dailyindex.htm>

### **NIPC Update Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

## Energy Sector

### **Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 07, The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)* — **Colombian rebels blow up key oil pipeline. Colombian leftist rebels blew up a section of the country's most important oil pipeline in the northern Arauca province that U.S. Special Forces are helping to guard, police said.** The pipeline, operated by multinational oil giant Occidental Petroleum, links the oil fields around the town of Cano Limon with the Caribbean oil terminal of Covenas and carries 105,000 barrels of oil a day. **It is considered crucial to maintaining uninterrupted oil exports, a major source of Colombian export earnings. The explosion late yesterday, near the village of La Ceiba, produced a gush of crude oil that is expected to cause lasting environmental damage, according to local officials.**  
Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/06/1044498917573.html>
2. *February 07, Platts Global Energy News* — **SPreport: public power units escape most of market's credit woes. Unlike investor-owned electric utilities, which experienced a tumultuous 2002, public power entities, including electric cooperatives, joint action agencies, and municipal electric utilities, experienced a fairly smooth ride, according to a report published Thursday by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.** During 2002, out of 197 rated entities, there were 14 downgrades, representing about 7%. Furthermore, these downgrades were balanced by 12 upgrades during the same period. Factors driving rating actions during the year included off-system sales, diversification, resource concentration, inability/unwillingness to raise rates and low power costs, SPsaid. The report is titled "U.S. Public Power Weathers a Volatile 2002."  
Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/home1.html>
3. *February 06, Reuters* — **Massachusetts rejects PGEdelay in Salem Harbor clean-up. In a move that may lead to the early shutdown of a big power plant in New England, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney said on Thursday the state rejected PGECorp.'s request to delay the clean-up of its Salem Harbor station.** PGNational Energy Group subsidiary asked for a two-year extension of its plan to clean up Salem Harbor by Oct. 2004, but the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection rejected the request earlier this week. **Salem Harbor is a 745 megawatt coal- and oil-fired power plant in the town of Salem about 15 miles from Boston in service since 1951, capable of powering about 750,000 Massachusetts homes.** Officials at PGENational Energy Group, based in Bethesda, Maryland, said they were disappointed by the governor's decision and were exploring options which could include installing the emissions equipment, a lawsuit against the state and either selling or shutting the plant. PGECorp., the parent of the National Energy Group, is based in San Francisco, California. **Officials in New England have said the shutdown of low-cost Salem Harbor would likely increase electricity costs, but would not hurt the reliability of**

the local grid because of the more than 5,000 MW of new generating capacity that has entered service in New England over the past few years.

Source: [http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=3628276](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3628276)

4. *February 06, The Philadelphia Inquirer* — **Two bundles of new fuel rods were damaged last week when workers at the Limerick nuclear station neglected to ensure that the rods were strapped down, officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said yesterday.** . No workers were injured in the Jan. 29 incident and there was no radioactive release, said Neil Sheehan, an NRC spokesman. The event will be documented as part of a larger inspection report but there will not be a separate investigation, he said. New fuel rods, about 12 feet long and about the same diameter as pencil erasers, are not radioactive in the same way as used fuel. Holding them would result in a mild sunburn, said David A. Lochbaum, a nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists. "If you're going to drop a fuel rod, that's the time to drop it," he said. The rods did not break but the metal frame holding them in place was damaged, Limerick spokeswoman Lisa Washak said. Each bundle weighs about 700 pounds and holds around 100 fuel rods. The plant receives the fuel from General Electric in Wilmington, Washak said. "There's some slight damage, but we'll be sending them back as a precaution," Washak said. "They won't be used in the generator." She said that each bundle costs about \$200,000. The utility immediately called for a cessation, or stand-down, of fuel-handling activities until the cause of the event was determined, Sheehan said.
- Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr\\_article.cfm?id=3631074](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3631074)

5. *February 05, The Bakersfield Californian* — **California plant powers up. La Paloma, a new power plant in Kern County, is partially online and generating 562 megawatts of energy, according to the California Energy Commission and the project developer.** Located near the town of McKittrick, about 40 miles west of Bakersfield, the power plant is built to generate 1,121 megawatts of energy, enough juice for more than 1 million homes. The \$500 million plant, approved by the California Energy Commission in October 1999, was originally scheduled to go online sometime between December 2001 and March 2002. **It's a natural gas-fired, combined cycle power plant with four combustion turbines and associated facilities and systems. The facility as a whole is not online, but it's halfway there.** Two of the plant's four units are commercially operational, said La Paloma spokesperson Megan Frey.
- Source: [http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=3627429](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3627429)

6. *February 05, Reuters* — **FERC reports no environmental harm from El Paso LNG project. El Paso Corp's proposed \$145 million expansion of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on the Georgia coast won environmental approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff on Wednesday. The project near Savannah would increase daily shipping capacity to 806 million cubic feet, boost storage to 1 million barrels of LNG, and double the number of LNG tankers visiting the port each year.** El Paso's LNG operation in Elba Island, Georgia is seen by analysts as having good prospects for long-term growth due to a projected jump in U.S. demand for natural gas over the coming decade. Environmental groups have accused FERC of trying to speed up the project by requiring only an "environmental assessment" instead of a full-blown environmental impact statement analyzing the LNG project's impacts on water, air, land and wildlife. **Supporters of the project say El Paso's planned changes would increase the terminal's safety and security, especially as tankers are docked.** LNG is natural gas cooled to minus 259 degrees Fahrenheit, which

changes the gas into a liquid and compresses it for transportation aboard special tankers. LNG is converted back into dry gas for fueling electricity generating plants. The Elba Island project is pending before FERC in docket CP02-379.

Source: [http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=3628226](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3628226)

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## **Chemical Sector**

7. *February 09, ABC News/Associated Press* — **Truck carrying 44,000 pounds of boric acid reported stolen in California. A tractor-trailer rig carrying 44,000 pounds of powdered boric acid was reported stolen from a commercial neighborhood in Riverside County,** where it was parked on its way to the Long Beach Shipyard, authorities said. Corona Police Sgt. Jon Stofila said the truck's disappearance, which was reported Friday, didn't appear to be an act of terrorism. **Because of the amount of chemical missing, however, the department notified the FBI's anti-terrorist unit in Riverside County.** Stofila said the truck was a green, 1996 Freightliner with California license plates and was likely stolen between 9:30 p.m. Thursday and 6 a.m. Friday. He said it was parked in Corona, off of Route 91, the major highway connecting Riverside and Orange counties. The flatbed trailer carrying the acid had Oregon plates, he said. **Boric acid is often used as a mild antiseptic, eyewash and coolant but can be used as an ingredient in explosives.**

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030209\\_311.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030209_311.html)

8. *February 08, News Channel 10* — **Federal investigators probe chemical plant explosion. Federal investigators probed the scene of a Rhode Island chemical plant explosion Saturday, searching for the cause of the blast and a fire that sent 12 employees to the hospital.** Employees from Technic Inc. and six emergency workers went to Rhode Island Hospital following the Friday morning explosion. All were decontaminated because officials feared they had been exposed to chemicals. **Representatives from federal agencies including the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency toured the site Saturday morning, gathering preliminary data.** Technic produces the chemicals and equipment used in electroplating — the process in which thin layers of metal are deposited on products such as electronics components and jewelry. Irv Rosenthal, a member of the Chemical Safety Board, said it was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, nor whether chemicals had been released. **While officials initially feared potassium cyanide in the building might have combined with acid to produce a lethal gas, Rosenthal said the only evidence of cyanide exposure comes from the medical reports on Degnan, the critically injured employee. Those showed trace amounts of cyanide, he said.** Local fire officials said the explosion might to have been triggered when an employee banged on a pipe in an effort to clear it. That is one theory, Rosenthal said Saturday, but it does not explain why striking the pipe would have had that effect. "It is not clear what caused the accident," he said. Technic employs 500 people worldwide, according to the company's Web site. Its headquarters is in Cranston, and it has plants in Anaheim, Calif., and Plainview, N.Y. Technic was named in connection with a fatal explosion in New Jersey in 1995.

Source: <http://www.turnto10.com/news/1965742/detail.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *February 07, Department of Defense* — **Civil reserve air fleet Stage 1 activation announced.** The Secretary of Defense has given authority to the commander, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) to activate Stage I of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) **to provide the Department of Defense additional airlift capability to move U.S. troops and military cargo. This measure is necessary due to increased operations associated with the build-up of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region.** CRAF aircraft are U.S. commercial passenger and cargo aircraft that are contractually pledged to move passengers and cargo when the Department of Defense's airlift requirements exceeds the capability of U.S. military aircraft. The authority to activate CRAF Stage I involves 22 U.S. airline companies and their 78 commercial aircraft — 47 passenger aircraft and 31 wide-body cargo aircraft. **While this authority is for all 78 commercial aircraft in the CRAF Stage I program, the USTRANSCOM commander, Air Force Gen. John W. Handy, is only activating 47 passenger aircraft.** Currently, U.S. military airlift aircraft and CRAF volunteered commercial cargo aircraft are meeting the airlift requirements. However, if required, the USTRANSCOM commander can activate those 31 cargo aircraft in the CRAF Stage I program.  
Source: [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2003/b02082003\\_bt064-03.h tml](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2003/b02082003_bt064-03.h tml)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *February 06, Associated Press* — **Suspected trafficker list gets more names.** The Treasury Department announced Thursday that its Office of Foreign Assets Control has added the names of 59 businesses and 78 people to the government's list of suspected narcotics traffickers. As a result, **U.S. banks must block any financial assets found in this country and in U.S. territories belonging to those on the list, and Americans are barred from doing business with them.** It marks the government's latest effort to shut down drug cartels. The Treasury office determined that **all 137 are linked to the Cali drug cartel's international business and financial network operating in Spain and Colombia.** Of the 59 companies, 10 are in Spain and 49 are in Colombia. **The entities were responsible for laundering drug money and other illicit gains totaling in the millions of dollars,** said a senior Treasury Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. In its heyday, the Cali cartel controlled the majority of the world's cocaine trade, and the Treasury official said that involvement is still significant. **A 1995 executive order gives Treasury the authority to try to financially paralyze suspected drug cartels and kingpins targeted by the United States.** Including Thursday's announcement, the government has moved to block the assets of 749 businesses and individuals believed to be linked to Colombian drug cartels.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36853-2003Feb 6.html>

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## Transportation Sector

11. *February 10, USA Today* — **500 people evacuated after train derails. A freight train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed in the middle of Tamaroa, Illinois Sunday. No injuries were reported after 16 to 21 cars of a northbound Illinois Central–Canadian National train derailed during the morning transit. Many emergency workers were kept away from the trains because of the danger, authorities said. Vinyl chloride leaked from one or two cars and caught fire. The fire was close to being declared under control by late afternoon, officials said.**  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-02-09-derailed-train\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-02-09-derailed-train_x.htm)
12. *February 10, FAA* — **FAA, TSA issue airspace control measures in National Capital Region under Orange Threat Level. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in conjunction with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on Saturday enhanced airspace control measures in the National Capital Region to a level consistent with National Threat Level Orange. "Terrorists are known to favor targets in the transportation sector and to consider our civil aviation system an arsenal of improvised weapons," said Department of Transportation (DOT) Under Secretary James M. Loy, head of the Transportation Security Administration. "The Washington capital region is home to a number of particularly symbolic targets which must be protected. We appreciate the cooperation of the general aviation community as we implement sound security measures and tighten our defenses during this period of heightened alert" said Loy.**  
Source: <http://www2.faa.gov/index.cfm/apa/1062?id=1685>
13. *February 07, Dallas Morning News* — **Airport seeks more funding from TSA. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport is a little closer to having its portion of a \$232 million automated baggage screening system financed by the federal government. The D/FW Airport Board of Directors approved a memo of agreement Thursday that would have the Transportation Security Administration reimbursing the airport for its \$145 million contribution toward the project between now and 2005, if Congress approves financing for the system. The TSA, which already is paying for \$87 million of the system, expects to sign the memo within a few days. D/FW Airport is one of many airports asking the federal government to fund systems that will allow airports to hide baggage-screening machines behind ticket counters and out of the way of passengers. The airport will pay the \$145 million in construction and infrastructure costs to make room for the new baggage system by using passenger fees, revenue bonds or a combination of both financing tools. The agreement says the TSA will go to Congress to ask for money to reimburse D/FW Airport.**  
Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/localnews/stories/020703dnmetairport.a5f79.html>
14. *February 07, NewsNet5.Com (Cleveland, OH)* — **Put-In-Bay ferries could face security checks boat operators object. Boat operators on Lake Erie are objecting to plans to make ferry passengers subject to security inspections. People riding ferries to places like Kelleys Island or Put-in-Bay (Ohio) could have to pass through a metal detector and have their bags inspected. The proposed changes stem from the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. They would be implemented no sooner than the 2004 boating season. Commander Dave Scott, chief of port security at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, said that Lake Erie island ferries are different from Florida cruise ships or a vessel near a military base.**

He said the regulations will reflect that. Other proposed security measures include arming crew members or having armed security on board, prohibiting licensed handguns and hunting rifles and searching vehicles. Bill Market, president of Miller Boat Line, which transports people and cars between Catawba Island and South Bass and Middle Bass islands in Lake Erie, said the ferries transport about 2,500 people on a summer weekend day. He figures he would have to increase ticket prices to hire as many as 10 security people to maintain the schedule if passengers had to be screened.

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/1963380/detail.html>

15. *February 07, Capital News 9 (New York)* — **Amtrak service delayed.** Amtrak service was delayed Friday on the Empire line between New York's Penn Station and Albany. That includes intermediate points and continuing service to Montreal and Buffalo. **A barge struck the Spuyten Duyvil railroad bridge, which connects Manhattan with the Bronx, early Friday morning. The bridge carries the railroad tracks used by Amtrak to access Penn Station.**

Source: [http://www.capitalnews9.com/content/top\\_stories/?ArID=13314](http://www.capitalnews9.com/content/top_stories/?ArID=13314)

16. *February 07, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Woman skirts San Francisco International Airport security, boards jet.** A woman with two carry-on bags bolted through an unmanned security checkpoint at the San Francisco International Airport on Thursday and took off on a flight before federal security agents evacuated the terminal — more than two hours later. By then, another 10 flights had departed, and the 22-year-old woman was well on her way to Baltimore, where she was arrested. **The incident renewed questions as to how someone could skirt airline security and depart on a plane without being properly screened for dangerous weapons or explosives.** Security cameras caught the unidentified woman sprinting through the unmanned checkpoint at 10:46 a.m., but it wasn't until 1 p.m. that Transportation Security Administration officials evacuated the terminal, forcing thousands of passengers to leave. **By the time the terminal was evacuated, the woman had boarded United Airlines Flight 284, which departed from SFO's Gate 84 at 11:31 a.m. — two minutes early, airline records show. Another 10 planes parked at the terminal also had departed.** Security cameras taped the woman pushing aside a table before bolting through the closed checkpoint at Terminal 3, which serves United Airlines domestic flights. Security officials said they had immediately tried to chase her down but lost her in the crowd. **The woman was arrested hours later by FBI agents at Baltimore–Washington International Airport on a federal charge of knowingly violating airport security procedures, authorities said.**

Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=c/a/2003/02/07/SFO.TMP>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *February 07, Washington Times* — **Tighter trade rule creates few ills.** A new rule designed to thwart terrorists by stopping the illegal transport of goods on ships is causing only minor disruptions to international trade, according to public and private sector officials tracking the program. **Authorities this week began enforcing a rule that requires ocean carriers to provide U.S. Customs with manifests of what is in cargo containers 24 hours before their ships leave a foreign port bound for the United States.** Companies said the rule forced a fundamental shift in the way they operate. Until the weekend, they could transmit information

after they left a foreign port, allowing more flexibility and last-minute adjustments. **"Last year when this 24-hour rule was announced, there was a lot of hesitation and a lot of concern because it represents a fairly major change in the way the industry operates," said Henry Tang, secretary of commerce, industry and technology for Hong Kong, which has one of the world's busiest ports. "There were many write-ups that we would not be able to comply, that there would be chaos. We proved them wrong," Tang said.** About 2.6 percent of the 11,000 containers moving through the port during the 24-hour rule's first four days lacked adequate description and had to be held. Tang said. "While that is too many, I feel that because the change has been so significant, it is an acceptable figure," he said. Chris Koch, president of the World Shipping Council, which represents ocean liner firms, said the industry had put an enormous effort into getting ready and that has paid off. **Jay Ahern, U.S. Customs assistant commissioner for field operations, said that the agency is pleased with the response so far from companies involved in shipping products. Customs is focusing on making sure that cargo descriptions are accurate and is "exceptionally pleased" so far, he said. The agency will begin looking harder at the timeliness of reports and then go into more detail examining descriptions as it phases in the rule, he said.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20030207-10788874.htm>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

18. *February 07, News First 5* — **Colorado ranchers may have to reduce their herds. Ranchers, who are already feeling the effects of the on-going drought, are bracing for a very dry summer.** The dry weather may force them to sell their herds. Usually baby calves are a welcome sight, but this year they are a bittersweet reminder of the Colorado drought. Ranch General Manager Ric Miller explains, "We used up all the leftover grass last year so there's nothing left to go on if we don't get some moisture." **If the weather stays dry ranches across the state will have to sell off the majority of their cattle, all at steep discounts.**

Source: <http://www.koaa.com/news/view.asp?ID=630>

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## **Food Sector**

19. *February 07, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Pick 'n Save stores now selling irradiated beef. A chain of Wisconsin grocery stores says it is now selling irradiated beef after many of its customers have requested that food safety efforts be stepped up. About 80 Pick 'n Save supermarkets are now offering the meat, which is first passed through a beam of radiation that breaks bonds in the DNA of any bacteria, rendering them unable to reproduce and harm humans.** The company says the decision was stemmed after several large consumer recalls of meat products have been issued over the past several years because of the dangers of E. coli and other contaminations. About 10 stores began marketing the beef in November, which is slightly more expensive than non-irradiated beef.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=167&yr=2003>



## **Water Sector**

20. *February 07, Law.com* — **New York City fined \$5.7M for Clean Water Act violation. New York City was hit Thursday with a \$5.7 million civil penalty for polluting a major adjunct of its water supply in violation of the federal Clean Water Act, possibly the largest municipal sanction ever imposed in such a case.** But the award was just a fraction of what the city might have faced for discharging pollutants into Esopus Creek. Northern District Chief U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Scullin Jr. of Syracuse said he could have awarded as much as \$63.2 million. The judge, however, refused to sanction the city for its conduct prior to a judicial finding of fault. Scullin also accepted the city's explanation that its belated response resulted from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Additionally, Scullin refused to enjoin the city from operating the Shandaken Tunnel, which causes the pollution, until it obtains the required state permit. **In all, Scullin's ruling in Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited Inc. v. City of New York, 1:00-CV-511, was largely beneficial to the city. The damages, while substantial and possibly record-setting, are far less than they could have been. Further, it appears the city came out ahead by violating the Clean Water Act. Records show that the city saved roughly \$13.7 million by not having a coagulation plant in operation between 2000 and 2002.**

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/law/030207/fc3936a3a4f656cebdf53370f53e771c1.html>

## **Public Health Sector**

21. *February 07, Washington Post* — **Labs unprepared for chemical attacks. The nation's public health laboratories are woefully unprepared to handle chemical weapons agents such as sarin or mustard gas that could be used in a terrorist attack, according to a 50-state survey released yesterday. On a scale of 1 to 10, 37 state labs rated their chemical response capability at or below a 4, while nine others gave themselves scores of 5 or 6, according to the Association of Public Health Laboratories, which conducted the survey last month.** Only eight labs have chemical response plans. There are no national protocols for testing or shipping suspicious chemicals. "We have almost nothing in place if an event occurred tomorrow," said Scott Becker, executive director of the association. **Since the anthrax attacks of 2001, public health labs have raced to upgrade their bioterrorism units, purchasing equipment, hiring specialists, and tightening security. But few have the expertise or technology needed to identify some of the 150 most hazardous chemical agents.** Lab directors and terrorism experts across the country say they dread scenarios such as the release of a mysterious gas in a subway or basketball arena. Soon people would begin coughing, fainting or reporting other symptoms. **Randall Larsen, a retired Air Force colonel and director of the ANSER Institute for Homeland Security, said release of the deadliest chemical agents would not require lab confirmation because people would die rapidly. He cautioned against spending precious homeland security dollars on preparing state labs for situations they may never encounter.** The government has focused on biological threats in large measure because deadly germs such as anthrax are obtainable by terrorists and small quantities are easily concealed. Armed with millions in federal aid, state labs have rapidly

improved their capability to detect biological agents, said Steve Hinrichs, director of the Nebraska Public Health Lab. But asking a microbiologist to conduct chemical analysis is akin to hiring a car mechanic to fix an airplane, he said. **Five states have received money from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test clinical samples such as blood and urine for dangerous chemicals in the event of an attack. This year, CDC hopes to add 10 more labs to that effort.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38145-2003Feb 6.html>

22. *February 07, Oklahoman* — **Goldsby selected for bioterrorism drill. The U.S. Army will dump powdered egg whites, grain alcohol and several other substances on the town of Goldsby, OK as part of a mock bioterrorism attack, state officials confirmed Thursday.** The Homeland Security Chemical/Biological Umbrella will be conducted by the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency. Residents of Goldsby, a town of about 800 in northern McClain County, started receiving letters explaining the procedure this week, state Environmental Quality Department spokeswoman Monty Elder said. The letter says airplanes will release "small amounts of harmless materials" over the area. **The materials are intended to mock chemical or biological agents and test the ability of weather radar to detect them. The materials also include powdered clay, polyethylene glycol, and an inactive pest control called *Bacillus thuringiensis*.** "These materials were selected because they are harmless to humans and the environment and because their physical properties allow radar to 'see' them just like materials that might be used in a terrorist attack," according to the letter. **The Oklahoma City area was chosen because of its sophisticated weather radar networks, according to the letter.**

Source: [http://www.newsok.com/cgi-bin/show\\_article?ID=983399e](http://www.newsok.com/cgi-bin/show_article?ID=983399e)

23. *February 07, New York Times* — **Many balking at vaccination for smallpox. President Bush's plan to vaccinate 500,000 health care workers against smallpox is getting off to an unexpectedly slow start as hundreds of hospitals and thousands of nurses across the country say that they will not participate.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said today that only 687 volunteers in 16 states had been vaccinated since the program began two weeks ago, though it has shipped 250,000 doses of vaccine to 41 states. **A nationwide survey of state health officials by The New York Times this week found about 350 hospitals that declined to participate. Hundreds more have not yet decided.** Smallpox experts said they were surprised at the low turnout. No serious reactions have occurred among those vaccinated in the past two weeks, the disease centers said. Dr. William J. Bicknell, a smallpox expert at the Boston University School of Public Health who favors vaccinating 10 million people as quickly as possible, blamed the centers, saying the agency had let potential volunteers develop exaggerated fears, failed to assure them that they would be protected in case of bad reactions, and did not publicize the Israeli and United States military vaccination campaigns, which have had few problems.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/07/health/07SMAL.html>

24. *February 07, Pioneer Press* — **Pneumonia vaccine not as effective as thought. The pneumonia vaccine booster shot normally given to frail and elderly people five years after their initial immunization does not protect them for life as was previously thought, researchers at the University of Minnesota have found.** The discovery is important because more than 60,000 Americans a year die of pneumonia, making it one of the top five killers of

people 65 and older. **The study raises the possibility that patients most at risk of contracting and dying from pneumococcal infections should be vaccinated every year or every other year.** "A lot of people haven't even had a primary vaccination, and a lot of patients aren't aware of the need for a booster," said lead investigator Thomas Lackner, a clinical professor in the university's College of Pharmacy. "Our elderly population is growing week by week, so it's affecting more people." **However, no one knows yet whether it's safe to give high-risk patients annual pneumococcal shots, so Lackner and his colleagues plan to study the question. He also said researchers should develop a more effective vaccine.**

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/5124723.htm>

**25. *February 07, New York Times* — New Jersey drafting a bill on doctors' insurance fees.**

**While many New Jersey doctors were seeing patients today for the first time since their work slowdown began on Monday, state lawmakers met again to draft a measure to deal with soaring malpractice insurance rates and end the job action.** Members of the New Jersey Senate's health and commerce committees, which are weighing the insurance issue, held informal closed-door meetings in Trenton while other legislators met with doctors across the state. **Talks centered on a proposal announced this week by Senator Joseph F. Vitale, a Democrat, that would limit insurers' liability for jury awards of so-called pain-and-suffering damages to \$300,000.** Under the plan, damages over \$300,000 would be paid from a fund created by an annual surcharge for each doctor and lawyer in the state. Gov. James E. McGreevey is still reviewing the plan, said a staff member, who added that the governor had said he would not allow any state money for such a fund. **Organizers of the job action, the biggest of several recent work stoppages around the country by doctors angry over rising malpractice insurance rates, have opposed the lawmakers' proposal. Instead, they want the state to impose a \$250,000 cap on pain-and-suffering awards, a proposal that Governor McGreevey and other Democrats oppose.** The doctors have not asked for any limits on awards to compensate for lost wages or medical bills. **Organizers of the slowdown said that while they remained encouraged by lawmakers' talks, they were not ready to officially end the slowdown. "We do acknowledge that some doctors have gone back to work," said John Shaffer, a spokesman for the Medical Society of New Jersey. "But they are of one accord: if something positive doesn't come about, this will be used again."**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/07/nyregion/07DOCS.html>

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## **Government Sector**

**26. *February 08, Mercury News (San Francisco)* — Nation is put on HIGH alert for possible terrorism.** U.S. officials elevated the national terrorism alert to high Friday for only the second time and warned of possible al Qaeda attacks on a sweeping range of potential targets, from hotels to apartment houses to "symbols of American power." **U.S. intelligence and health officials said in public announcements and private briefings that they were particularly concerned about chemical, biological or radiological weapons, including ricin, cyanide and dirty bombs that would spread radioactive debris over a wide area.** Attorney General John Ashcroft and other officials said al Qaeda operatives might seek to time attacks to coincide with the hajj, the annual five-day pilgrimage by Muslims to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, that reaches its climax next week. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge urged people to prepare

for an emergency by readying contact lists, talking with their families and reviewing information on other precautions. FBI officials alerted agents in areas that have been hit before, in New York City and Washington, D.C., to be on special guard. **New York Gov. George Pataki and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news conference that doctors and nurses had been alerted to watch for unusual outbreaks of infectious disease. They also said they would activate special units of the state police and National Guard to help protect bridges, tunnels, subways and other facilities.** Ashcroft said bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders have emphasized planning for attacks on apartment buildings, hotels and other 'soft' or lightly secured targets in the United States. **Also at risk, he said, were economic targets and other symbols of American power" and prestige. That was thought to be a reference to stock exchanges, the U.S. Capitol, the White House and similar institutions.**  
 Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/5136482.htm>

27. *February 07, New York Times* — **Progress seen in border tests of ID system.** Immigration officials say they are moving rapidly to meet a congressionally mandated deadline for a sophisticated new identification system to be in use at its 100 most porous entry points over the next year. **The system will use ID cards encrypted with digital photos, signatures, biographical information and fingerprints that have been issued by the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service by the millions over the last five years. Until recently, the immigration service has not had the machines to read the information on the cards — a shortcoming that came to light in Congressional hearings into the 2001 terror attacks. The machines cost \$8,500 each.**

The machines foiled a variety of sophisticated counterfeit attempts, officials said. Inspectors spotted cards on which the front photograph was changed to match the impostor, but the photograph encrypted in the back was still of the original person. Immigration officials say document fraud is the most common way to enter the United States illegally, accounting for about two-thirds of apprehensions. It is common for people to pay dealers in illicit documents a fee to use a border-crossing card and mail it back once across.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/07/politics/07IMMI.html>

28. *February 07, National Infrastructure Protection Center* — **Information Bulletin 03–002: Homeland security information update: Suggested guidance on protective measures.** The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) has issued Information Bulletin 03–002: Homeland security information update: suggested guidance on protective measures. As recipients were advised, **the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) was raised to High (Orange) from Elevated (Yellow) on 2/7/03. This communication provides critical infrastructure owners/operators suggested guidance for developing protective measures based on this heightened threat condition.** This communication also provides potential indicators of threats involving weapons of mass destruction.

Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/publications/infobulletins/2003/ib03–002 .htm>

29. *February 07, National Infrastructure Protection Center* — **Information Bulletin 03–001: Homeland security information update: Potential al–Qa'ida operational planning.** The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) has issued Information Bulletin 03–001: Homeland security information update: Potential al–Qa'ida operational planning. **Increasing intelligence indicates that the al–Qa'ida terrorist network maintains an ongoing interest in attacking soft, or lightly secured, targets in the United States and/or the Persian Gulf. The likelihood of such targeting may rise in or around the end of the Hajj (a Muslim**

religious period ending mid–February 2003), according to current intelligence reporting.  
Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/publications/infobulletins/2003/ib03–001 .htm>

30. *February 06, New York Times* — **White House in tentative deal on New York rescue package.** The Bush administration has tentatively agreed to provide up to \$980 million that New York City and state officials had counted on to help close multibillion dollar budget deficits, according to New York and federal officials involved in the negotiations. **The agreement taking shape would give about \$350 million to the state and about \$630 million to the city, with fewer restrictions than normally govern such emergency aid. The money would be drawn from the federal funds that had been allocated in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001. The proposal is highly unusual because it would break a federal precedent that had earmarked all the disaster relief allocated since the terrorist attacks for specific projects.** Officials moved closer to an agreement in the last few days, after intense negotiations involving the White House's Office of Management and Budget; Representative James Walsh, a New York Republican on the House Appropriations Committee; Senator Charles E. Schumer of New York and aides to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Gov. George E. Pataki. At first the White House balked at that request. Administration officials were wary of establishing a precedent that other localities could invoke in the future to demand emergency aid for other purposes, like offsetting revenue losses arising from disasters, according to New York lawmakers and one administration official. **In the end, the Bush administration relented, partly because the disaster in New York was unprecedented and partly because the scope of the damage to New York's economy has only recently come into sharper focus, officials involved in the discussions said.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/07/nyregion/07AID.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *February 07, Government Computer News* — **Geographic information systems find their place in federal sector. Geographic information systems are crucial to effectively managing government and helping federal, state and local government agencies deal with crises,** said Mark Forman, associate director for IT and e–government in the Office of Management and Budget. **"GIS is the glue for government management in the future,"** Forman said Wednesday at a federal user conference. Forman said that after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York, the city's GIS helped first responders react quickly and accurately. "That's been briefed up and down the chain at the White House," he said. Federal users at the conference said GIS plays a role in numerous processes, such as showing patterns in cross–border alien smuggling cases, mapping high–risk areas for wildfires and analyzing international populations for calculating global aid breakdowns. Even recent events have demanded the use of GIS technology. **Less than 24 hours after the explosion of space shuttle Columbia, NASA and emergency officials in Nacogdoches, Texas, received detailed maps of 27 counties encircling the debris area from a Stephen F. Austin State University GIS lab and Forest Resources Institute.**

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily–updates/21093–1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily–updates/21093–1.html)

32.



*February 06, Federal Computer Week* — **Locals offer interoperability guide.** While releasing a new guide on the need for interoperable systems, members of 18 organizations representing state, county and local governments pressed the federal government for more money to help first responders get upgraded communications equipment and more radio frequencies. Many officials said they were distressed by the federal government's slow progress to provide a promised \$3.5 billion last year to help first responders. Counties and cities, which have grappled with their own budget shortfalls, have spent about \$2.6 billion in public safety since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, officials said. The government groups, which form the National Task Force on Interoperability (NTFI), released on Thursday a guide for public officials titled "Why Can't We Talk? Working Together to Bridge the Communications Gap to Save Lives." **The report cites several reasons why local police, firefighters and emergency medical workers are unable to exchange voice and data communications: equipment is aging and incompatible; governments lack funds to replace equipment; planning, coordination and cooperation among agencies is limited; and the radio spectrum is fragmented.** In addition to releasing the guide, NTFI also called on Congress to create a national Spectrum Trust Fund, where 50 percent of the revenue from sales and/or leases of radio spectrum frequencies to the private sector would go to help state and local governments with communications interoperability issues. NTFI also called for passage of the Homeland Emergency Response Operations Act, introduced last year by Reps. Jane Harman (D-Calif.) and Curt Weldon (R-Pa.). The bill, slated to be re-introduced to the 108th Congress before March 1, calls for the federal government to give public safety agencies the broadcast frequencies Congress set aside for them in 1997 (from 764 to 776 MHz and from 794 to 806 MHz). Those frequencies are being used by TV channels 63, 64, 68 and 69. The bill would prevent the Federal Communications Commission from granting the private sector any extensions for that spectrum beyond Dec. 31, 2006.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0203/web-task-02-06-03.asp>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

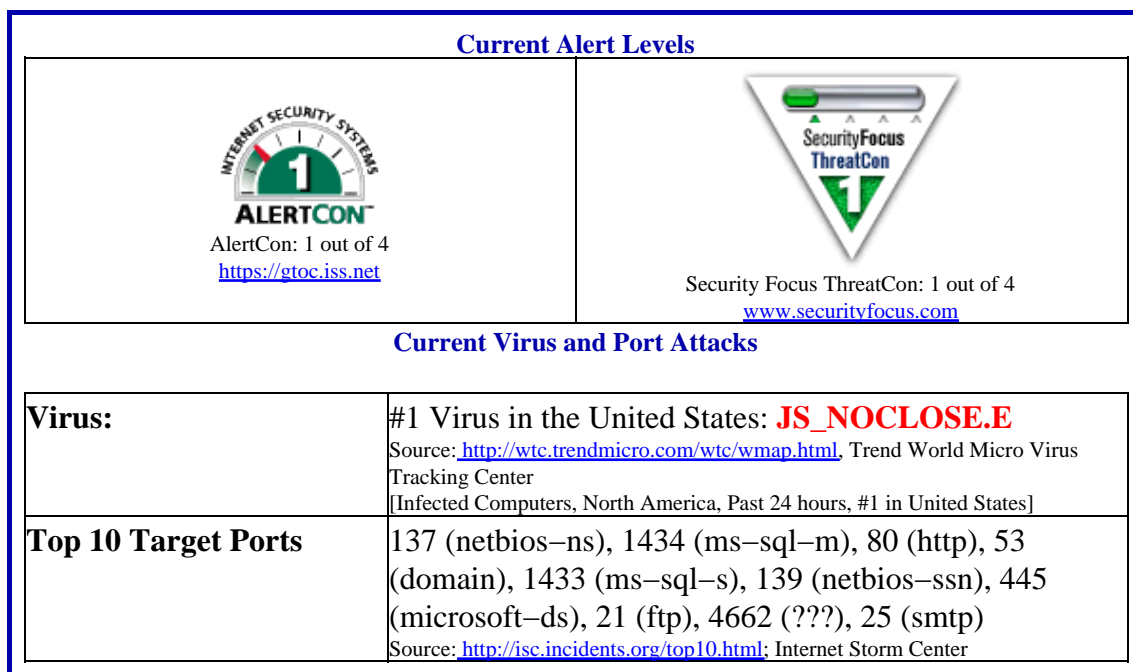
33. *February 07, Federal Computer Week* — **DOD plans network attack task force.** The Defense Department is planning to form a joint task force focused solely on computer network attack (CNA) as part of the ongoing reorganization of U.S. Strategic Command (Stratcom). Stratcom recently acquired oversight of DOD's information operations and global command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) capabilities. Currently, **Stratcom's Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations is charged with defending all DOD networks from attack, as well as initiating cyberattacks when instructed by the president or Defense secretary.** However, **Stratcom's reorganization also will result in splitting the JTF-CNO into two separate task forces – one focused on computer network defense, and the other on CNA, according to DOD officials.** A DOD spokesman said that **CNA is "bound by largely the same rules that apply to any war strategy or tactic – very clear rules of engagement (ROE) will prove necessary.** "All pieces of the enemy's system of systems that are valid military targets have been – and will be – on the table as we go about war planning," the spokesman said. **"It is unimportant whether we take out a computer center with a bomb or a denial-of-service program. If it's critical to the enemy and we go to war, it will be in our sights."**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0203/web-net-02-07-03.a.sp>

34. *February 06, CNET News* — **Ex-student accused of spying on campus.** A former **Boston** College student was indicted on Thursday for allegedly installing keystroke-recording software on more than 100 campus computers and accessing databases containing personal information on other students, staff and faculty. The case may be the **first criminal prosecution of a person accused of unlawfully installing a key-logging device, which is designed to capture and record what a computer user types, including passwords and other private information.** "I am very concerned about (key-logging software) given the enormous number of public access computers at schools, copy shops and libraries," said John Grossman, chief of the Massachusetts attorney general's corruption, fraud and computer crimes division. According to the attorney general's office, Boudreau began to install key-logging software around April 2002 and used intercepted information to add money to a stored-value card used in the campus dining and bookstore system. Boudreau is not, however, accused of misusing credit card numbers or profiting from selling any private information he allegedly gleaned. **Universities have grown more worried about the possibility of key-loggers monitoring their systems, with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign warning that the "Secret Service has advised us about several nationwide computer intrusions/hacking incidents."** The charges against Boudreau include unauthorized access to a computer system, wiretapping, and breaking into a building at night "with intent to commit a felony." The last charge alone carries a penalty of up to 20 years in state prison.

Source: <http://news.com.com/2100-1023-983717.html>

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

35. *February 06, Associated Press* — Mosque leader accused of smuggling people. A purported New York mosque director allegedly caught on tape wishing for a new terrorist attack on America was arrested Thursday for allegedly helping more than 200 immigrants enter or stay in the United States on the pretense that they were religious workers. Prosecutors allege Muhammad Khalil's mosque, run out of his variety store's basement, was actually a roach-infested front that rarely saw worshippers. Khalil, 62, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Pakistan, was charged with conspiring to submit false applications on behalf of aliens, a charge prosecutors said could bring eight years in prison. A judge Thursday set bail at \$300,000. **Prosecutors allege Khalil's Brooklyn mosque, located below his store, Ditmas Greeting Cards, existed in name only.** Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward C. O'Callaghan said the government's evidence includes taped conversations in which Khalil tells a government witness how to fake documents.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Religious-Immigrants.html>

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## NIPC Products & Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

[NIPC Advisories](#) – Advisories address significant threat or incident information that suggests a change in readiness posture, protective options and/or response.

[NIPC Alerts](#) – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

[NIPC Information Bulletins](#) – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

[NIPC CyberNotes](#) – CyberNotes is published to support security and information system professionals with timely information on cyber vulnerabilities, malicious scripts, information security trends, virus information, and other critical infrastructure-related best practices.

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